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PROGRAMMING FOR HISPANIC FAMILIES IN SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES

Gail Castillo* and Beverly J. Peters

ABSTRACT:

The Hispanic population in Iowa has increased 152% from 1990-2000, with K-12 enrollment in Iowa schools increasing 206%. While we value this diversity, our Latino numbers in Extension programming have not grown at this same rate. Franklin County, at 6% total Hispanic population, decided to take action. This session will cover programming for youth and families, including partnerships developed along the way. Programs include: (1) Mundo Mágico de Aventuras—a multi-session day camp for english-language-learning children in four North Central Iowa communities who have completed Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. The program offers children a variety of ways to practice their English during the summer months through hands-on, experiential learning and lots of fun. The children also get acquainted with their community through visits to the public library, banks, local businesses, and other places of interest. (2) Growing in the Garden--Hampton-Dumont ESL summer school students planned, planted, and cared for the garden during the summer on the Franklin County Fairgrounds. The ISUE curriculum "Growing in the Garden" taught the students about gardening, nutrition, and agriculture using math, English, and communication skills. (3) Family Nutrition Program--a group of Latino mothers meet to learn about family nutrition. (4) Franklin County Navigator--a special position created initially with grant dollars to help new families find the services they need...from updating children's immunizations for school to finding answers to their questions on services available.

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MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF A CHANGING AMERICA

Karen Dickrell*, Sue Buck, Pang Cher Vue and Dan Veroff

ABSTRACT:

A statewide Hmong Educational Needs Assessment was conducted through a focus group process conducted in ten counties in Wisconsin. The purpose was to determine the educational needs of an important segment of the Wisconsin population, the Hmong from Southeast Asia, and explore how UW Extension's divisions could better serve the population. Two themes emerged - the pursuit of identity and communication / generational issues. The focus groups also provided insights into preferred methods of learning. Each community is unique and successful educational programming is based on building relationships and trust. A Hmong demographics profile was developed to enhance the understanding of the Hmong Population.

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MULTICULTURAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Lillian Larwood* and Jeanne Brandt

ABSTRACT:

We live in an age where technology, world travel, migration, dependent and interactive economies and political systems make it increasingly likely that we will interact with people whose background is far different from our own. Each culture offers a frame of reference for the individual and dictates how they will interpret and respond to events and people; thus, intercultural communication has potential for great conflict. Having some knowledge of other cultures and the willingness to be objective about our differences will help us to be an effective communicator in today's diverse world. As 4-H professionals we are charged with offering positive youth development opportunities to all youth within our geographic area. This poster session will provide a starting point to encourage 4-H professionals and volunteers to communicate and interact more thoughtfully and successfully with a wider variety of individuals, families and groups. Increased knowledge and experience with aspects of diverse cultures will give us the confidence and skills to reach children from backgrounds not traditionally involved in 4-H. We will present through a poster session an insightful approach to interpreting interactions, actions, gestures and terms involving people of different cultures. Consider it a test for World Citizenship.

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UTAH'S COMPUTER ASSISTED LITERACY PROGRAM FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Dr. Hector Mendiola* and Cheryl A. Empey

ABSTRACT:

Utah has a growing Latino population, many do not have the language skills necessary to help them navigate their way in a new community. To assist this population Utah State University Extension created the "Computer Assisted Literacy Program" that uses technology to engage adults and youth in learning both the English language and computer skills. Such skills gained provide them with the ability and confidence to seek better jobs and improve their socio-economic standing. The Computer-Assisted Literacy program is a powerful tool in building positively diverse communities.

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EXTENSION EN ESPAÑOL A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR EXTENSION EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS IN SPANISH

Bill Watson* and Kevin Robinson

ABSTRACT:

What: A group of Extension communicators has come together to establish a clearinghouse to serve Extension educators across the country in their work with Spanish-speaking audiences. **Why:** The Spanish speaking audience in the United States is growing much more quickly than any state or Extension service's ability to keep up. The need for quality educational support and materials surpasses the resources available within any one state. Language and cultural expertise are also not abundant throughout Extension. **How:** Collaboration on a national scale will allow us all to better serve this important client group. The "Extension en Español" project will provide Extension educators high quality materials and production support. It will also gather expertise and experiences that will improve the quality of Extension outreach to Spanish-speaking audiences across the Cooperative Extension System. The idea is to concentrate then share Extension's scarce Spanish language expertise and resources nationally. "Extension en Español" will (1) provide a collection of educational materials in Spanish under a national Extension brand. Each in Spanish accompanied by its English language counterpart. (2) Provide annotated links to Spanish-language Extension, governmental and non-governmental agency materials. (3) Provide annotated links to Spanish-language audio and print news. On the production side, "Extension en Español" will (1) identify Extension professionals willing to consult with you on outreach or production of materials for use with Spanish speaking audiences. (2) Facilitate production of materials in Spanish that have a demonstrated national or regional audience. (3) Providing dynamic references and for a that support Extension educators in their local, regional or national Spanish language outreach.

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